

WATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

EDUCATION/OUTREACH/TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

November 18, 2002

Members Present:

Tom Sandham
Sandra Whitehouse
Mary Anne Barry
Judy Doerner

Members Absent:

Andrea Balazs
Michele Moulton
Sen. Kevin Breene
Vicky Drew

Water Resources Board Staff:

Connie McGreavy

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sandham called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A. Documentation of Meetings

Ms Barry offered to take the minutes of this first meeting. A student intern will complete this task in the future.

B. Building Committee Participation

Mr. Sandham cited the need to diversify and expand the membership of this committee to include large water users in addition to state legislators and community representatives from individual town councils, etc. It was also decided to break the technical component of the committee off and place it in the Integrated Water and Wastewater Committee. Ms. McGreavy will inform that committee of the new members. It was agreed that Sandra Whitehouse will be the primary contact and Tom Sandham will be the secondary contact of the Education/Outreach/Public Relations Committee.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A. Overview of Water Allocation Program

Ms. McGreavy gave an overview of the Water Allocation Program, its purpose and short-term goal of implementing a water use registration program within 12-18 months. She explained that education and conservation would be central tenets of any water allocation initiative. The Education Committee will assist in devising a strategy to educate legislators, water users and the public as to the details necessary to implement a successful program that meets the environmental needs of Rhode Island. It was discussed that the word "allocation" need not be used in initial descriptions of the program to avoid creating unnecessary confusion or fear. The final definition and evolution of educational

material to be disseminated would rely on the outcomes and recommendations of each of the committees.

B. Purpose of the Committee

The group agreed that the primary purpose of the Education/Outreach Committee is to coordinate and disseminate information to legislators, water users and the public in an appropriate form. The committee will also make recommendations of its own in terms of education, conservation or public relations initiatives for the water allocation program.

C. Development of Mission, Goals and Outcomes

Mission Statement (draft)

1. To develop and implement a public relations campaign that results in the support of the water management program recommended by this committee
2. To develop outreach and education program to conserve water in the state.
3. To encourage key municipal, state, business officials, etc. to become involved in the process for development of a water management program for Rhode Island.

Short Term Goals:

1. Expand and diversify the committee
2. Obtain a public relations professional
3. Determine to whom, and how, to disseminate information
4. Package goals and objectives of all eleven committees to educate legislators, water users, and the public about the water allocation program
5. Develop an introduction piece.

D. Report to the Water Allocation Program Advisory Committee

The group agreed that Ms. Whitehouse would present the committees findings at the November meeting of the full Water Allocation Program Advisory Committee.

V OTHER BUSINESS

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, Dec. 16, 2002 at 1:00 PM. Location to be determined.

VI ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion made by Mr. Sandham and seconded by Ms. Barry, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Barry

Date